

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

1 Claim 2 (Currently amended): A screen printing method for
2 printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask
3 plate, comprising:

4 a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into
5 contact with the a lower surface of said mask plate;

6 ~~a mask pressure step in which~~

7 a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask
8 plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into
9 said pattern holes; and

10 a plate separating step in which the work is separated from
11 the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating operation of
12 repeating plural times an acceleration and deceleration pattern
13 in which a moving speed at which said work is moved in the
14 direction where the work separates from the mask plate is
15 accelerated up to an upper limit speed and thereafter is
16 decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

17 wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said
18 upper limit speed in start of said plate separating operation is
19 set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds representing the
20 upper limit speeds from the middle of the plate separating
21 operation on,

22 wherein in said plate separating operation, a plurality of

23 said acceleration and deceleration patterns are set so that said
24 succeeding upper limit speed are decelerated gradually.

1 Claim 3 (Previously presented): A screen printing method
2 for printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask
3 plate, comprising:

4 a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into
5 contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

6 a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask
7 plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into
8 said pattern holes; and

9 a plate separating step in which the work is separated from
10 the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating operation of
11 repeating plural times an acceleration and deceleration pattern
12 in which a moving speed at which said work is moved in the
13 direction where the work separates from the mask plate is
14 accelerated up to an upper limit speed and thereafter is
15 decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

16 wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said
17 upper limit speed in start of said plate separating operation is
18 set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds representing the
19 upper limit speeds from the middle of the plate separating
20 operation on,

21 wherein in start of said plate separating operation, a
22 plurality of said acceleration and deceleration patterns are set
23 so that acceleration and deceleration is repeated at the nearly
24 equal initial upper limit speed.

1 Claim 4 (Currently amended): The screen printing method
2 according to Claim [[1]] 2, wherein in the plate separating
3 operation, said work is separated from the mask plate by causing
4 the work to descend.

1 Claim 5 (Currently amended): A screen printing method for
2 printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask
3 plate, comprising:

4 a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into
5 contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

6 ~~a mask pressure step in which said work is raised further~~
7 ~~by a predetermined margin from a normal height position of a~~
8 ~~lower surface of the mask plate so that said contact between the~~
9 ~~work and the mask plate is in a state under pressure from below;~~

10 a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask
11 plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into
12 said pattern holes; and

13 a plate separating step in which a plate separating
14 operation of moving said work ~~plate~~ in the direction where the
15 work separates from the mask plate is performed,

16 wherein in start of said plate separating operation, the
17 moving speed is accelerated up to an upper limit speed and
18 thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

19 wherein in start of said plate separating operation, a
20 plurality of acceleration and deceleration patterns are set so
21 that acceleration and deceleration is repeated at nearly equal
22 the upper limit speed, and

23 wherein thereafter deceleration is performed continuously

24 until said plate separating operation is completed.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The screen printing method~~
2 ~~according to Claim 5,~~ A screen printing method for printing paste
3 on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask plate, comprising:
4 a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into
5 contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;
6 a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask
7 plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into
8 said pattern holes; and
9 a plate separating step in which a plate separating
10 operation of moving said work in the direction where the work
11 separates from the mask plate is performed,
12 wherein in start of said plate separating operation, the
13 moving speed is accelerated up to an upper limit speed and
14 thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed,
15 wherein in a process where in start of said plate
16 separating operation, the moving speed is accelerated up to the
17 upper limit speed and thereafter is decelerated up to the lower
18 limit speed, acceleration and deceleration are not repeated but
19 deceleration is performed continuously until said plate
20 separating operation is completed.

1 Claim 7 (Original): The screen printing method according to
2 Claim 5, wherein in the plate separating operation, said work is
3 separated from the mask plate by causing the work to descend.